

Appl. No. : 10/810,990
Filed : March 26, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of preventing passage of embolic material from a left atrial appendage, comprising:
positioning a patch across an opening of the left atrial appendage; and
securing the patch at one or more locations surrounding the opening of the left atrial appendage.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1, comprising securing the patch with at least one anchor.
3. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising advancing at least three anchors into tissue to secure the patch across the opening.
4. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising securing the patch with a plurality of anchors surrounding the opening.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising unfolding the patch from a reduced configuration to an enlarged configuration prior to securing the patch.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the patch comprises PTFE.
7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the patch comprises a fabric.
8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the patch comprises a tissue sheet.
9. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the patch is delivered transluminally to the left atrial appendage.
10. (currently amended) A method of preventing passage of embolic material from a left atrial appendage of a patient, comprising:
delivering a plurality of anchors to a location adjacent an opening of the left atrial appendage using a delivery catheter; and

delivering the anchors into tissue surrounding the opening of the atrial appendage;
and
removing the delivery catheter, wherein the anchors remain engaged in the tissue
surrounding the opening following removal of the delivery catheter.

11. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein delivering the anchors into tissue surrounding the opening of the atrial appendage secures a patch across the opening.

12. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the anchors are delivered transluminally.

13. (original) The method of Claim 10, comprising delivering at least three anchors to surround the opening.

14. (currently amended) A method of closing an opening in a patient, comprising:
providing a first tissue engagement structure and a second tissue engagement structure, each of said tissue engagement structures being connected to a suture, at least one of the tissue engagement structures being slideable relative to said suture;
delivering the tissue engagement structures to the opening using a delivery catheter;
engaging the tissue engagement structures with tissue adjacent the opening; and
sliding the first tissue engagement structure relative to the second tissue engagement structure along the suture to close the opening; and
removing the delivery catheter from the patient, wherein the tissue engagement structures remain engaged with the tissue adjacent the opening following removal of the delivery catheter.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising advancing a retention structure along the suture to close the opening.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures penetrate tissue.

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17. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures engage the tissue on opposite sides of the opening.

18. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures engage the tissue inside the opening.

19. (canceled)

20. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures are anchors.